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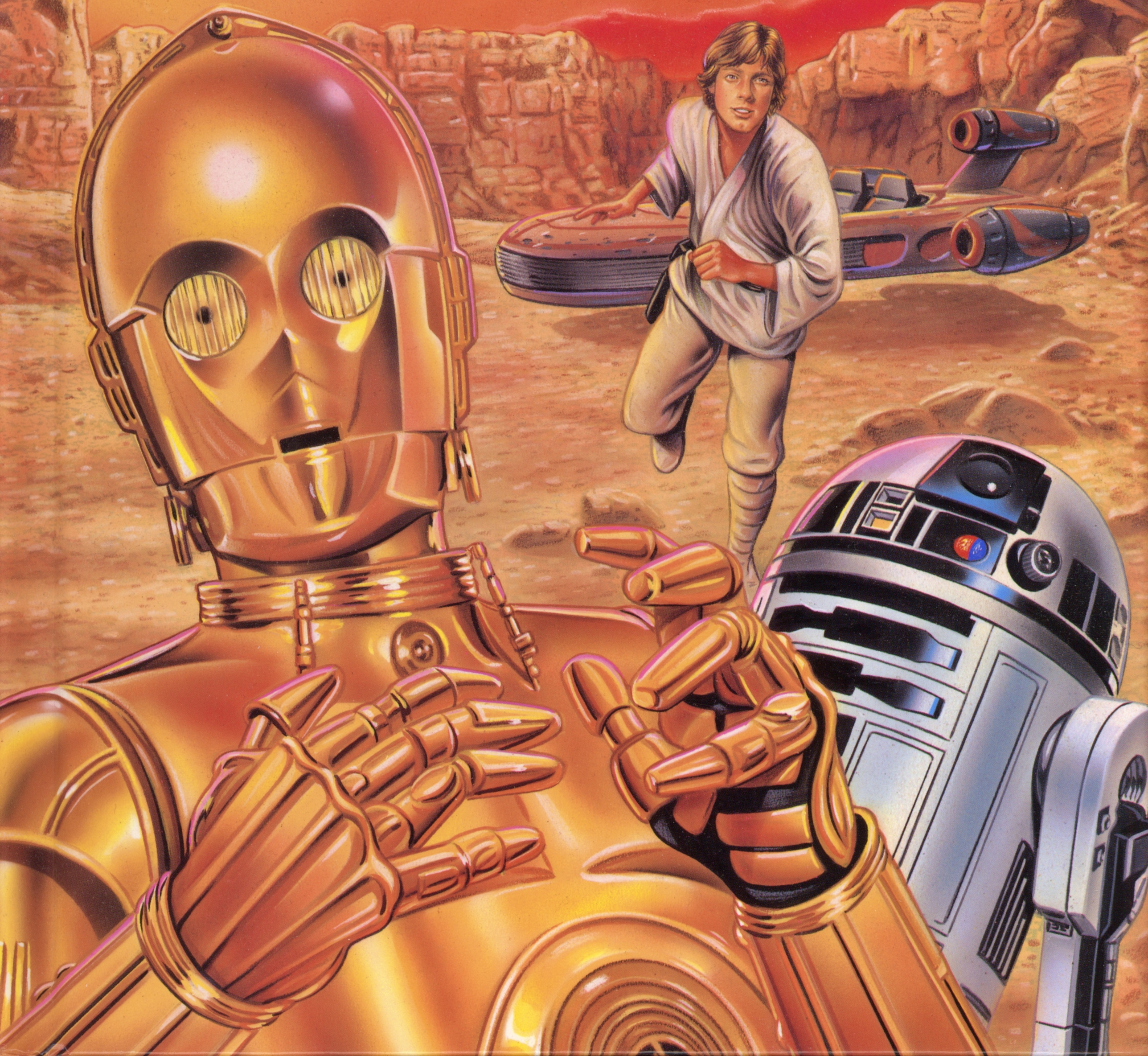
STAR WARS®

A NEW HOPE



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STAR WARS®

A NEW HOPE

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Publications International, Ltd.

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... a Rebel ship zooms across the galaxy. It tries to outrun Darth Vader's Imperial Star Destroyer. On board the Rebel ship, Princess Leia hides the plans for the Empire's Death Star just before Darth Vader storms her ship.

"Where are the plans?" Darth Vader asks. Princess Leia refuses to tell him. "Take her away!" shouts Darth Vader. Imperial stormtroopers lock up the princess in the Death Star prison.

Darth Vader does not know that Princess Leia hid the plans in a droid named R2-D2. These plans must make it safely to the Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi. Princess Leia needs his help. She must destroy the Death Star. R2-D2 and his friend C-3PO have escaped from the Rebel ship in a space pod. It is up to them to save the Rebellion.

R2-D2 and C-3PO land on a distant planet named Tatooine. R2-D2 knows he will find Obi-Wan Kenobi here. But first they meet a farmer named Luke Skywalker. Luke wishes he could fly an X-wing fighter instead of working on his uncle's farm. "It's not fair," Luke says. "I'm never going to get out of this place."

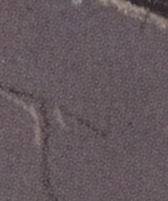
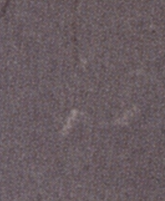
While cleaning the dust off R2-D2, Luke stumbles across Princess Leia's message. But before Luke can see the whole message, R2-D2 runs away.

Luke follows R2-D2 to Ben Kenobi's house where R2-D2 plays Princess Leia's message. She asks Ben to come to her home planet, Alderaan, to help the Rebellion. "This is our most desperate hour," Leia says.

Ben knows he will need Luke's help, so he brings out the lightsaber that belonged to Luke's father. "You must learn the ways of the Force," Ben tells Luke.

Luke tries out the lightsaber as he listens to Ben's words.

"I'll come with you," he decides.

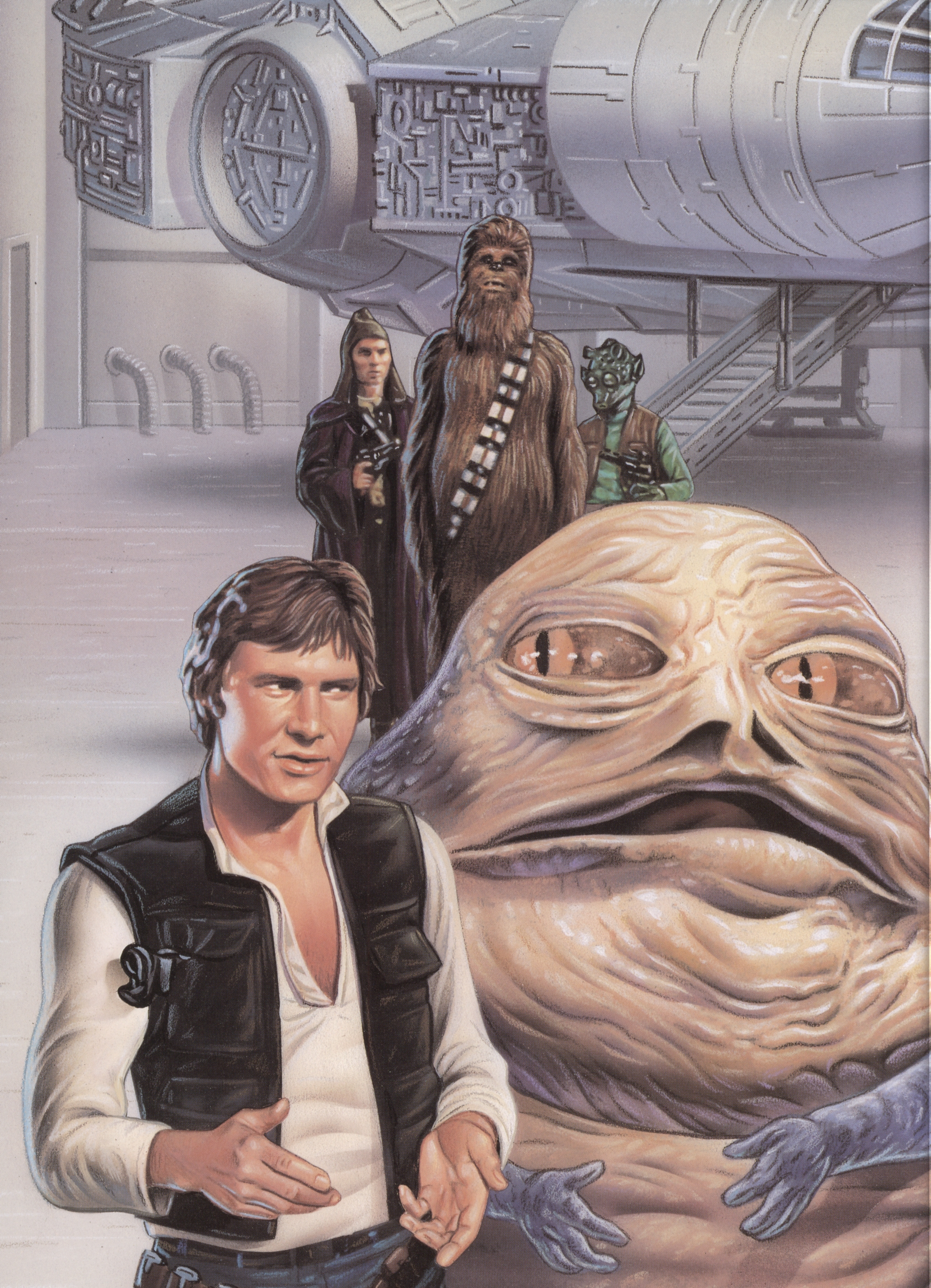
Ben, Luke, and the droids head for a spaceport. They must find a pilot who will fly them to Alderaan. Luke has never seen such strange creatures! Ben speaks to a Wookiee named Chewbacca.  He is first mate on the *Millennium Falcon*. Chewbacca introduces Ben and Luke to Han Solo, the ship's captain. 

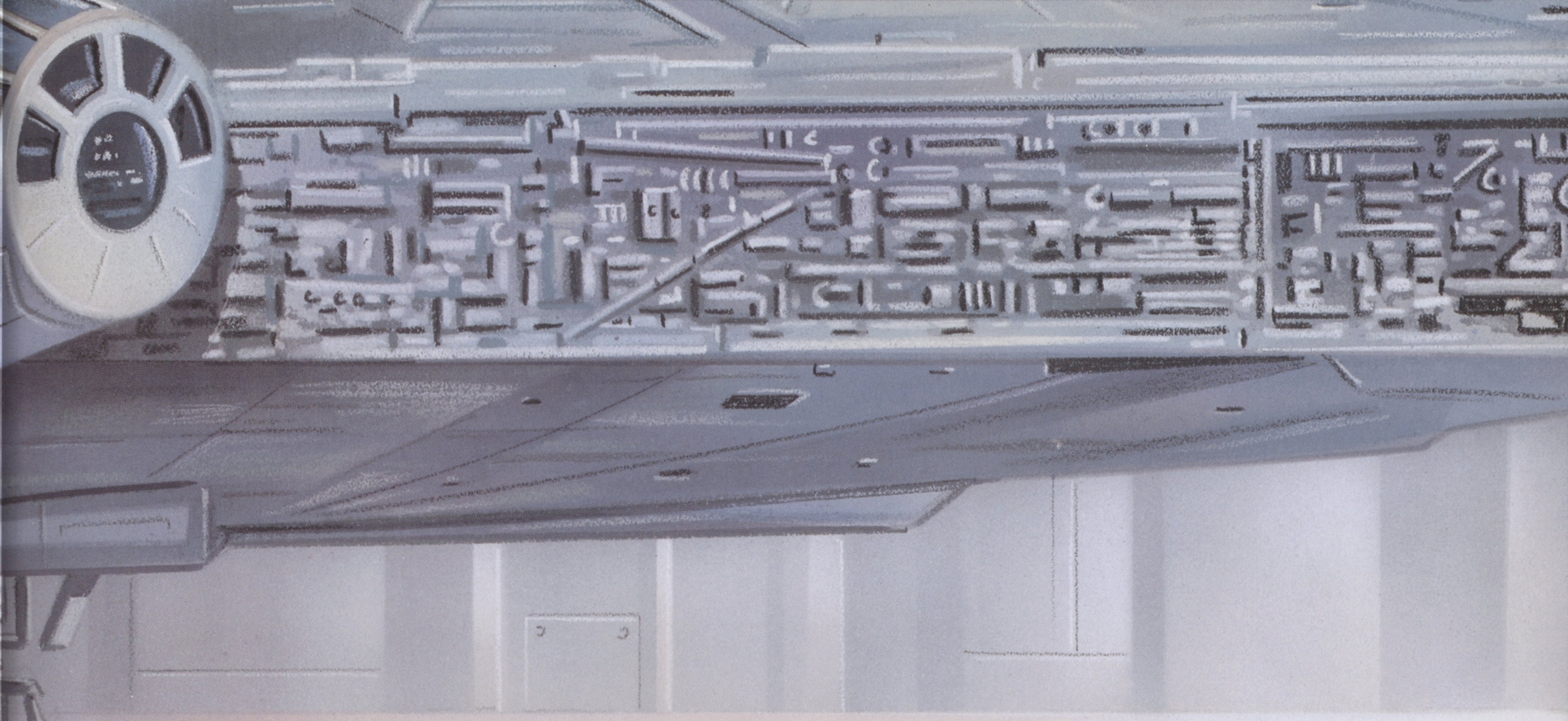
"We'll hire you if you have a fast ship," Ben tells Han.

"You've never heard of the *Millennium Falcon*?" Han asks. "I've outrun Imperial starships!"

Ben nods. "Good. We want to avoid them."

"For that, I charge extra," Han says. Then he sees Imperial stormtroopers coming their way. Han tells Ben and Luke to meet him at the *Millennium Falcon*. Then Han says, "Chewie, I'll be able to pay Jabba the money I owe him!"



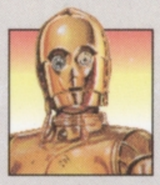


Jabba the Hutt has been looking for Han. He finds Han near the *Millennium Falcon*.

"Han, you disappoint me," Jabba says. "Why haven't you paid me?"

"I'll pay you back, plus a little extra," Han says. "I just need a little more time."

Jabba is not pleased. He warns Han not to fail again or Jabba will look for him all over the galaxy.

Han is not the only one in trouble. Stormtroopers chase Luke, Ben, R2-D2, and C-3PO  as they rush onto the *Millennium Falcon* and quickly take off. Then Imperial Star Destroyers race after the *Millennium Falcon* as the ship quickly jumps into hyperspace.

Aboard the *Millennium Falcon*, Luke practices with his lightsaber. Ben watches, but suddenly he nearly faints. "I feel a great disturbance in the Force," he tells Luke. "I fear something has happened."

"The Force is a lot of simple tricks and nonsense," Han says. But when he pulls the ship out of hyperspace, meteorites crash against the *Millennium Falcon*.

Han can't find Princess Leia's planet. "It's not there," he says.

"The planet has been destroyed by the Empire!" Ben tells the others. As he speaks, an Imperial TIE fighter zooms past. Han chases it toward a small moon until he realizes the moon is really the evil Death Star. Han and Chewie try to turn the ship around, but a tractor beam pulls the *Millennium Falcon* inside the Death Star.

Imperial stormtroopers search the *Millennium Falcon* for the Rebels. But Luke, Han, Ben, Chewie, and the droids sneak into one of the Death Star's control rooms. Then R2-D2 finds the tractor beam's power source. Ben tells the others to guard R2-D2 while he shuts it down. C-3PO just wants to leave.

R2-D2 discovers that Princess Leia is being held prisoner on board. "We've got to help her!" Luke says. He and Han disguise themselves as stormtroopers and pretend to take Chewie to the prison where Princess Leia is being held. The real stormtroopers find them! Luke frees Princess Leia from her cell. The princess blasts a hole in the wall for them to escape through. Everyone jumps down into a packed, stinking trash room. Suddenly the walls start to close in on them! Luke tries and tries to contact C-3PO as the walls move closer. Finally C-3PO hears Luke's call for help. "Shut down the trash room! Hurry! Hurry!" he tells R2-D2.

The Rebels climb out of the trash room and run right into Imperial stormtroopers! Han and Chewie drive the stormtroopers one way. Princess Leia and Luke race the other way until stormtroopers chase them right to the edge of a deep drop.

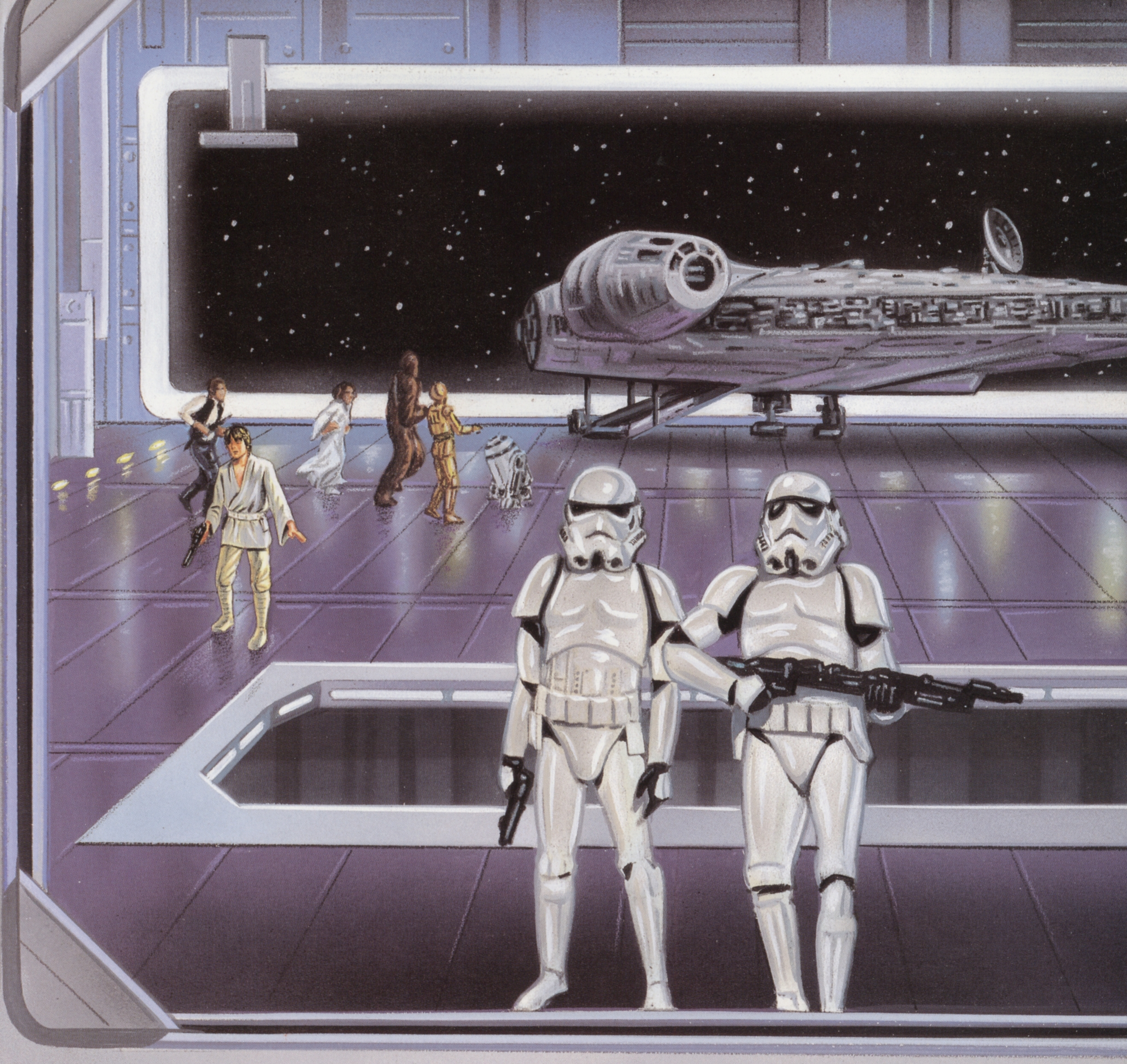
"I think we took a wrong turn," Leia says. Luke blasts the door shut behind them. Imperial soldiers start to force their way through the door. Ahead of them the bridge will not extend to the other side. There is only one way across. Luke takes a rope and hook from his belt. He grabs the rope with both hands.

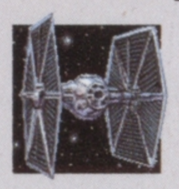
"Hang on!" he tells Princess Leia. Then Luke swings them across the great drop. They make it! They are safe for now.

Meanwhile, Ben hurries to the tractor beam's power source. He steps carefully onto the high tower and makes sure none of the stormtroopers see him. Once Ben shuts off the tractor beam, he takes out his lightsaber. It is time for him to face Darth Vader, alone.

Luke and the others don't know Ben's plan. They only know that stormtroopers are surrounding the *Millennium Falcon*. When the stormtroopers wander away to watch Ben and Darth Vader fight, the Rebels know this is their chance! They hurry to board the ship.

Luke stops when he sees Ben battling Darth Vader. Suddenly Ben looks at Luke and puts down his lightsaber.

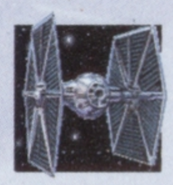


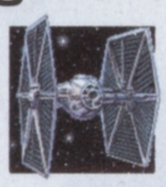
"No!" Luke screams, alerting the stormtroopers that the princess is escaping. Han and Chewie power up the *Millennium Falcon*, and the ship soars away from the Death Star. Darth Vader sends TIE fighters  after the ship, but Han and Luke defeat them. Princess Leia is sure that the evil Darth Vader is tracking them as they hurry back to the Rebel base with the secret Death Star plans.

The plans stored in R2-D2 show the Rebels how they can destroy the Death Star. Time is running out!

The Death Star moves closer to the Rebel base as Luke takes off with other X-wing pilots.

Stormtroopers blast the first wave of fighters.

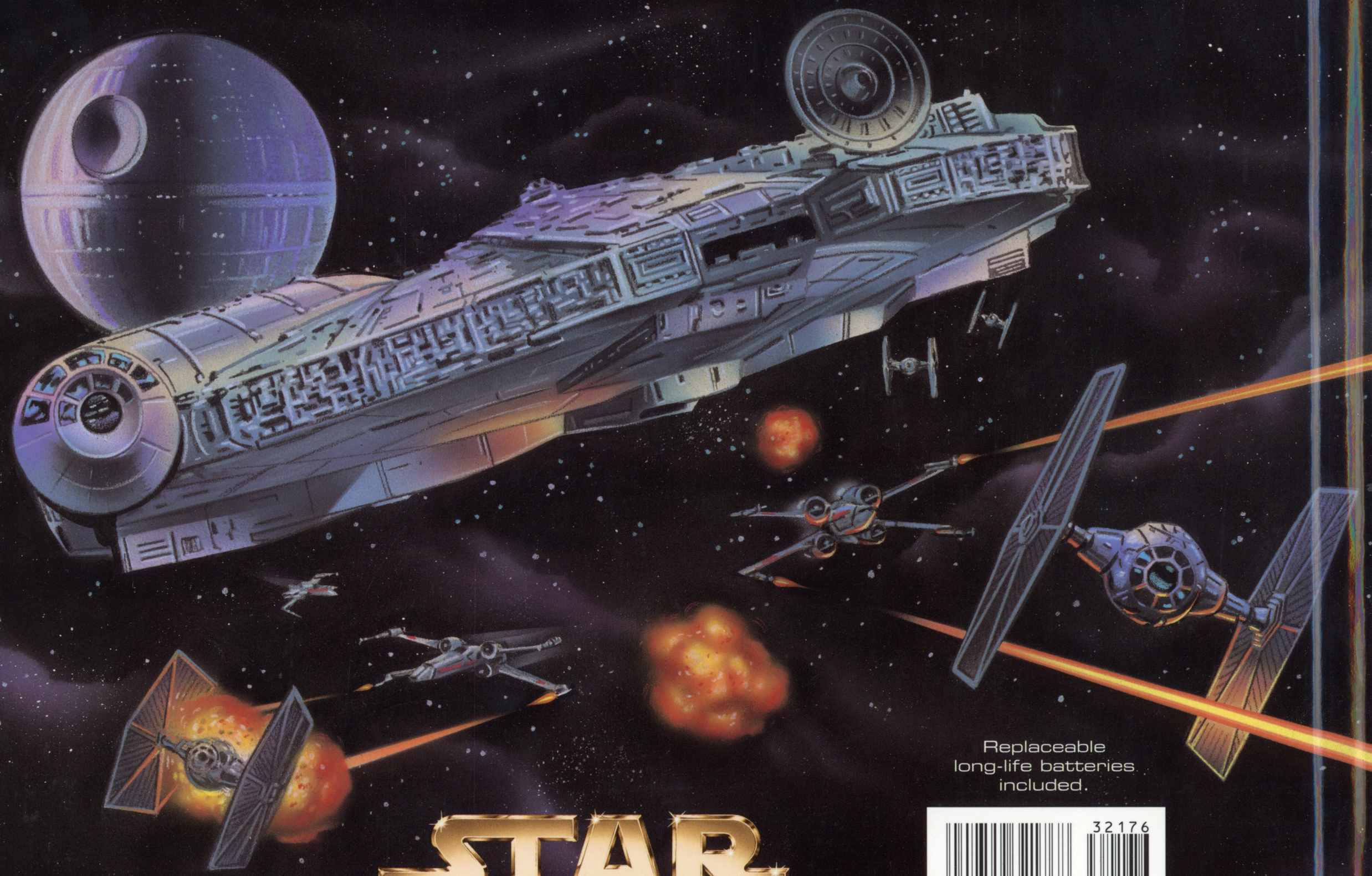
Then Imperial TIE fighters  chase down the other Rebel ships, while Luke dodges the Imperial ships.

Soon Luke is the only one left who can destroy the Death Star. As he speeds toward the target, Darth Vader catches up to him in a TIE fighter.  But Han Solo comes out of nowhere and sends Darth Vader's ship spinning into space. With the Force and Ben's voice to guide him, Luke takes aim and makes the hit. Suddenly the Death Star explodes! Luke saves the Rebellion!

Crowds of Rebel fighters cheer as Luke returns to the base. His victory over Darth Vader gives the Rebellion a new hope. Princess Leia honors Luke, Han, and Chewie before all of the Rebel soldiers.

She gives Luke and Han medals for defeating Darth Vader. R2-D2 and C-3PO, all clean and shiny, share their friends' honor. And in his heart, Luke knows that Ben will be with him each time he uses the Force.

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...the Rebel Alliance battles *the evil Empire. It is up to* Luke Skywalker and his friends to save *the galaxy. May the Force be* with you as you press the 16 buttons and *hear the voices and sounds* of their epic journey through space.



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